



The President's Daily Brief

4 December 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The southbound flow of North Vietnamese troops is examined on *Page 1*.

The Warsaw Pact renewed its commitment to a Berlin settlement in a statement following the summit meeting. (*Page 2*)

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The military situation in Laos is discussed on *Page 5*.

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A Canadian journalist is in North Vietnam [REDACTED]

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(*Page 7*)

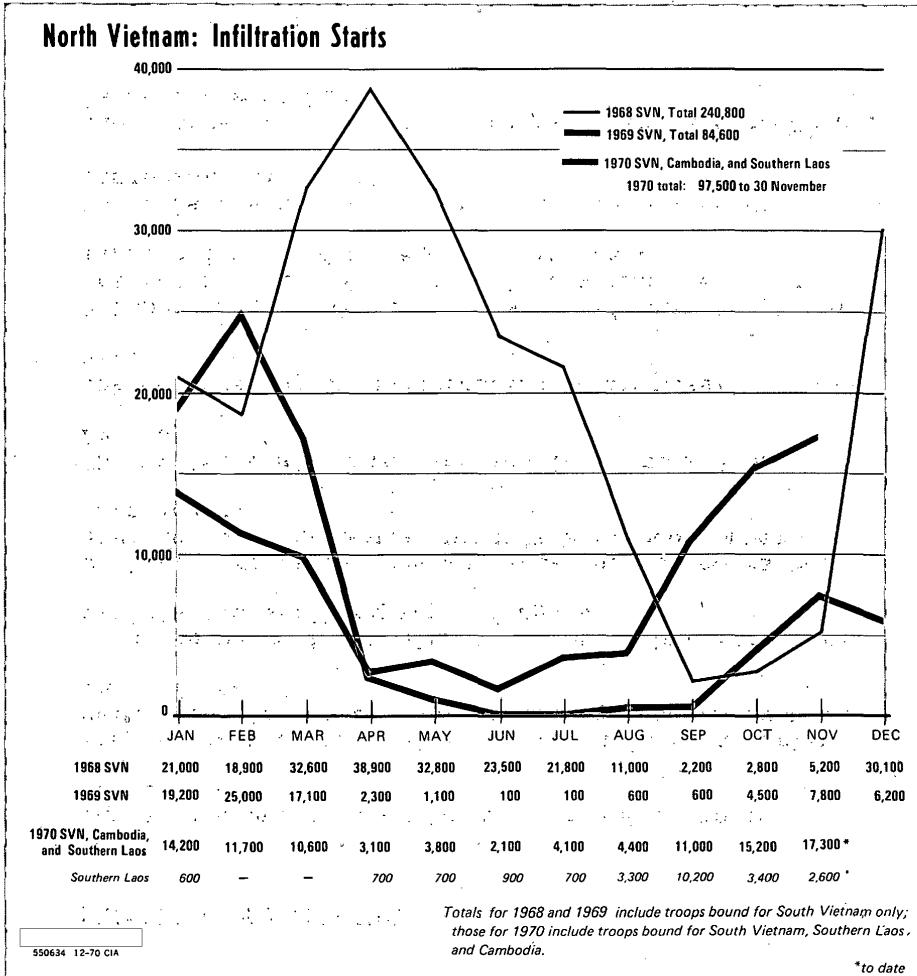
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Chile is moving toward diplomatic relations with Communist China. (*Page 8*)

The status of Soviet naval units in and around Cuba is reported on *Page 9*.

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NORTH VIETNAM

About 17,300 North Vietnamese troops started south in November, the highest monthly total since February 1969.

More than 10,000 of the infiltrators detected were earmarked for COSVN, which commands Communist activities in Cambodia and southern South Vietnam. An additional 4,400 are headed for northern South Vietnam. About 2,600, including what seems to be a regiment of North Vietnamese Army regulars, are believed to be en route to southern Laos.

Continuing deployments of regular North Vietnamese units in and around the infiltration corridor reflect the priority Hanoi has placed on securing its supply lines through Laos. The 48th and 52nd regiments of the 320th Division, for example, have arrived in southern Laos and are committed to the defense of the infiltration corridor. The 88th Regiment of the 308th Division, which recently was located just north of the DMZ, may also be bound for security duty in Laos. Headquarters elements of both the 320th and 308th divisions have moved southward in North Vietnam and other elements subordinate to them may follow. In addition, major elements of the 24th Regiment of the 304th Division--a division which normally rotates its units in and out of the DMZ area--seem to have remained in southern Laos.

Farther down the infiltration corridor, elements of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division that were pulled out of South Vietnam last summer are moving south through Saravane Province of southern Laos. The available evidence suggests they are headed back to South Vietnam. Still farther south, elements of two regiments which normally are targeted against the western highlands of South Vietnam appear to be helping expand and defend the Communist supply lines running south through the Laos-Cambodia border area.

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WARSAW PACT

Warsaw Pact leaders announced their support for a mutually acceptable agreement on West Berlin in a statement released a day after their summit meeting in East Berlin. The statement said such an agreement should meet the interests of detente in central Europe, as well as the requirements of the people of West Berlin and the lawful interests and sovereign rights of East Germany.

The statement appears to be a reiteration of the goals of detente in central Europe without providing any clues on how this is to be accomplished. These tactics have the advantage of creating the impression of forward movement on East-West negotiations on Europe without chipping away at East Germany's sovereignty. Nevertheless, the statement does nothing to assuage Ulbricht's unhappiness over his allies' eager responses to Bonn's Ostpolitik, and the statement's support for Czechoslovak negotiations with West Germany indicates that the next bilateral agreement could be a Bonn-Prague affair.

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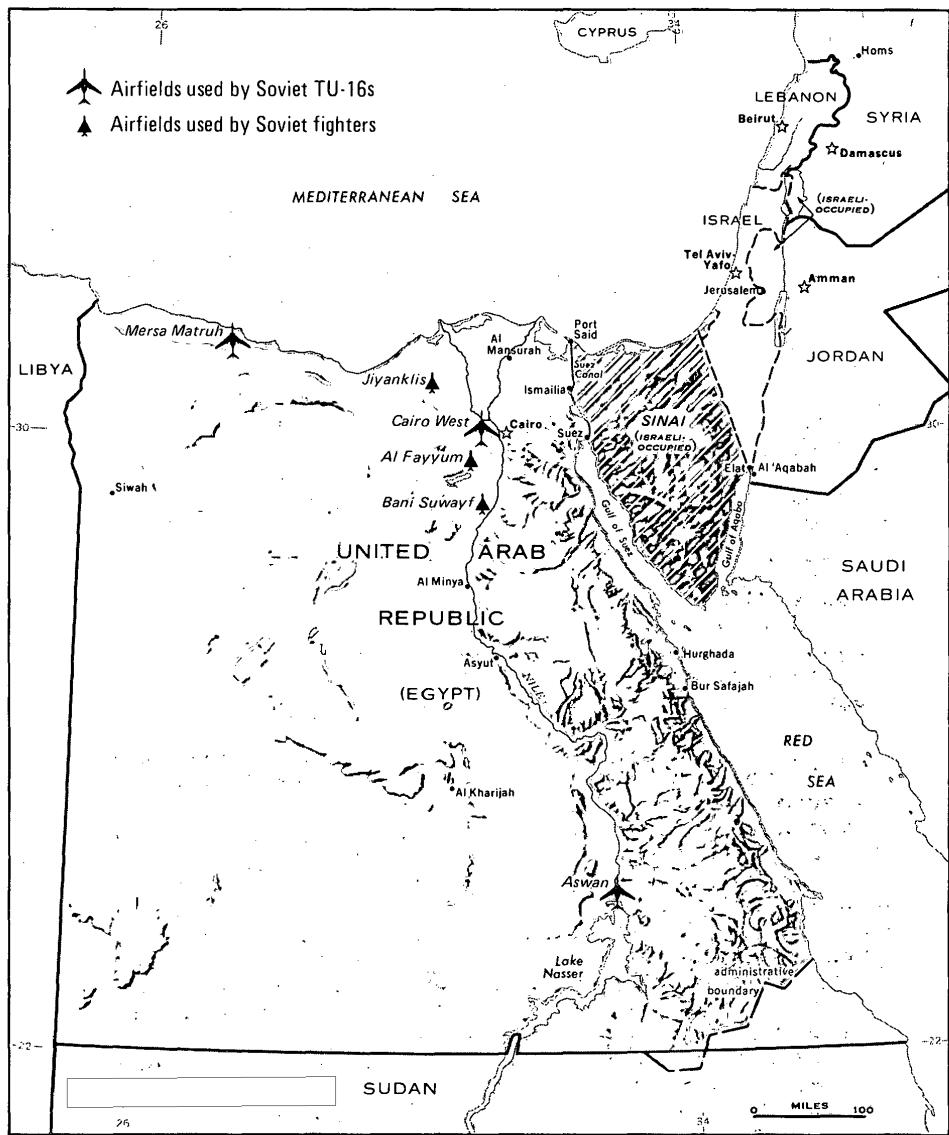
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USSR-EGYPT

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Satellite photography in June and August showed at least eight Egyptian-marked TU-16s at Severomorsk and Malyavr naval air stations in northwestern USSR. Six of them carried air-to-surface missiles (ASM). In July, four TU-16s arrived at Aswan, and were exchanged for others that had been there since April.

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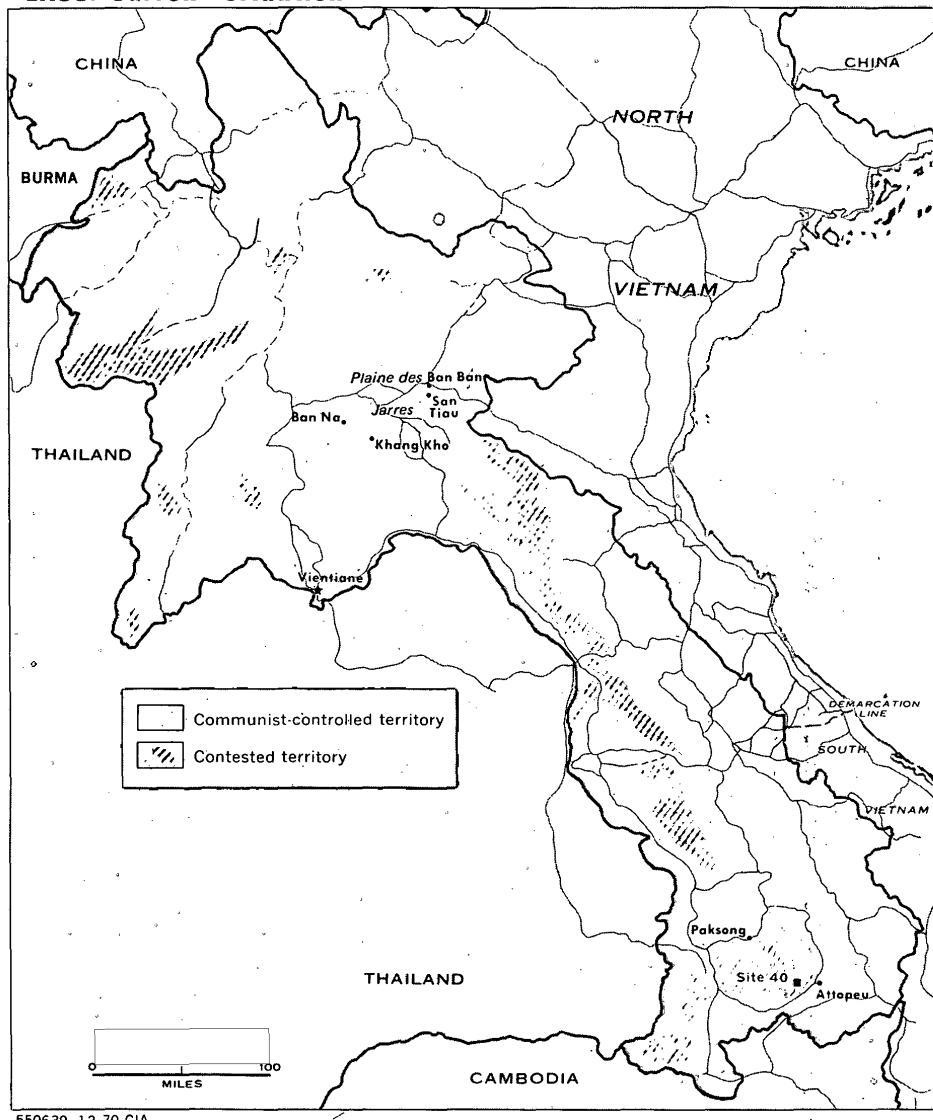
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LAOS: Current Situation



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LAOS

Government forces are still encountering no significant opposition as they move closer to the Communist supply lines in the Ban Ban valley. Elements of the 850-man force closing on Ban Ban from the north got close enough to Routes 61 and 7 on 2 December to observe enemy truck traffic. The 1,300 irregulars moving north from San Tiau captured two high ground positions on 2 December against only token resistance.

On the western edge of the Plaine, Communist forces kept up their shelling of government positions near Khang Kho and Ban Na, but no ground contacts were reported. Intercepts indicate that elements of the NVA 148th Regiment, which have been carrying out these attacks, are involved in some redispositioning of their forces and are having difficulty in evacuating their wounded.

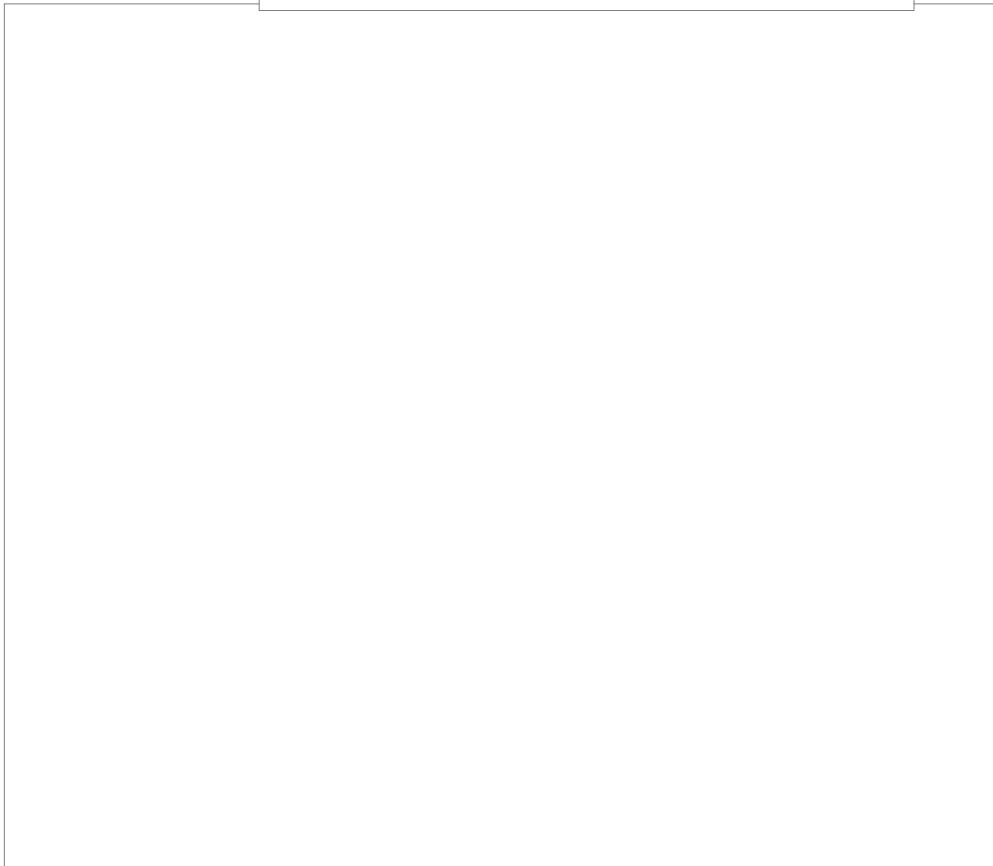
In southern Laos, the government force which has been sweeping the area north of Paksong to determine the enemy presence in this area continued to report no contact. Farther to the southeast, on the edge of the Bolovens Plateau, North Vietnamese units seized the government position at Site 40 on 2 December.

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Communist China: [redacted]

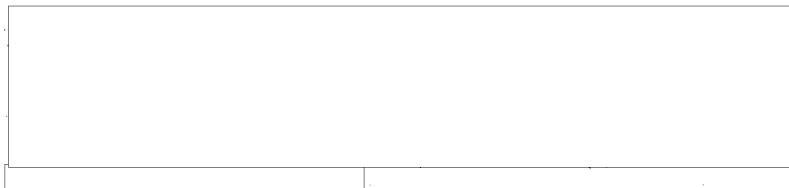
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COMMUNIST CHINA



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NORTH VIETNAM

A fairly prominent Canadian journalist, Michael Macleer, is in North Vietnam for a visit of several weeks. He is representing Canadian television and The New York Times. [redacted]

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Last year Macleer produced lengthy film reports that presented Hanoi's position in a favorable light. They were shown widely on Western television. [redacted]

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CHILE

The government has announced that discussions on opening relations with Communist China are under way in Paris.

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Allende is continuing his effort to carry out rapidly his campaign promise to establish diplomatic relations with all Communist countries. Chile set the stage for the move toward China at the UN this fall by becoming the first country in Latin America, other than Cuba, to vote for the Albanian resolution.

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet missile frigate and submarine tender have rendezvoused north of Puerto Rico. A conventionally powered F-class submarine surfaced in the same area yesterday and apparently is operating with the frigate and tender. The report in yesterday's Daily Brief that the Soviet rescue tug had left Cienfuegos was based on an erroneous radio direction signal. The tug is still in port.

Also yesterday, two Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft flew from the USSR to Havana. Last spring three pairs of TU-95s flew to Cuba but returned to the USSR within several days without conducting operations with Soviet naval units then in the Caribbean.

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